

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Breast Cancer Accomplishments - 107th Congress

This year, approximately 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and over 40,000 will die. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is a strong advocate for breast cancer prevention and treatment since the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer on Long Island is among the highest in the country. She is involved in a variety of legislative efforts to address the research, prevention and treatment of this disease.

LOWERING THE COST OF BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

Women on Long Island with breast cancer pay an average of 116% more for the five breast cancer drugs than drug companies' most favored customers, and 80% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 55. She is working to ease the financial burden placed upon women diagnosed with this disease.

H.R. 758, the Breast Cancer Prescription Drug Fairness Act, is Congresswoman McCarthy's bill to reduce prescription drug prices for women diagnosed with breast cancer, along with seniors on Medicare.

- Allows Medicare recipients and women diagnosed with breast cancer to buy drugs at the discounted rate that drug companies charge the federal government.

- / **H.R. 536, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act**, requires health plans to provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissections performed during breast cancer treatment.

SCREENING AND PREVENTING BREAST CANCER

As a nurse, Congresswoman McCarthy knows that a necessary component of fighting any disease is improved screening and preventative measures. She knows that despite recent debate, the best preventative measure for breast cancer are regular mammographies. She is working on several pieces of legislation that promote the importance of mammography services, and ease the financial burden of preventative care.

- / **H.R. 1354, the Assure Access to Mammography Act**, enhances reimbursement for, and expands capacity to mammography services under the Medicare program.
- / **H.R. 3989, the Better Screening Test for Women Act**, authorizes additional appropriations to the National Institutes of Health for research on the early detection of and the reduction of mortality rates attributed to breast cancer.

RESEARCHING BREAST CANCER

The number of Long Island women diagnosed with breast cancer is one of the highest in the nation. Congresswoman McCarthy wants to find out why the rate is so high on Long Island, and she supports increased funding for research into this and other issues related to breast cancer.

- / **H.R. 1723, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act**, authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers to study the relationship between environmental factors and the prevalence of breast cancer.
- / **H.R. 281, the Taxpayers' Cancer Research Funding Act**, adds to the Internal Revenue Code a checkoff box for a Breast and Prostate Cancer Research Fund.
- / **H.R. 3186, Paget's Cancer Awareness Act**, creates a study and an awareness program on Paget's Cancer, a rare form of breast cancer.
- / **H.R. 2725, Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act**, reauthorizes the breast cancer research special postage stamp.
- / **H.R. 326, the Ovarian Cancer Research and Information Amendments**, authorizes money for ovarian cancer research.